

permit us the luxury of soft-mindedness. A nation or civilization that continues to produce soft-minded men and women purchases its own spiritual death on an installment plan."

I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve with Juanita Millender-McDonald, and once again I send my condolences to those who loved her. The House and the Nation have lost a dedicated public servant and someone who in life and death has taught us the meaning of character.

#### CHAIRWOMAN JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to honor one of our colleagues, Representative Juanita McDonald of the 37th District of California.

Representative McDonald was an extraordinary woman. She was born in Birmingham, Alabama at a time of racial violence and overt displays of the most open and systematic forms of racism. But she did not let that hold her down or hold her back. She went to college in California, she became a teacher in the Los Angeles school system, and throughout her career she used education as an instrument for change.

She was a great teacher, and she used the power of knowledge and her commitment to human understanding to break down institutional barriers and to reach across the aisle.

I think that is why she made so many strides as a Member of Congress. She knew gaining mutual understanding was the only way to build coalitions and lay all differences aside.

That's why her creativity and skillful leadership became legendary. She was the first Democrat to chair the Congressional Caucus For Women's Issues and she used that power to build a coalition between the women of the Supreme Court and the women of Congress. She knew the differences in their roles as public servants didn't matter. She believed all women in government shared a common bond.

She took concerned women of Congress to meet delegates to the United Nations to unify the global struggle against the exploitation of women and girls.

She developed the first National Teen Dating Violence Week as a platform for all women to speak out against a common problem—violence against teen girls. And she was the first Member to bring the head of the CIA to the city of Watts to address longstanding, widespread allegations of drug dumping in that community.

And, of course, she was the first African American to chair a full committee, the Committee on House Administration. This committee oversees some of the great educational institu-

tions of our Nation—the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution, the Government Printing Office, and the Capitol Fine Arts Board.

We can only dream about what this great teacher would have done in this capacity. I know she would have used the power of knowledge and education as an instrument of change.

But beyond that, Juanita McDonald was an elegant lady. She may have moved to California, but she never lost her southern charm. She was always a lady—as tough as steel but as sweet as honey. She was more than a colleague. She was our sister, our friend. Juanita was a sharp dresser, and sometimes she would dress to kill. She was beautiful on the outside and on the inside. She had a sweet, sweet spirit, and she will be deeply missed.

Sometimes when she would see me, she would call me Mr. Civil Rights. And sometimes when she would see Sanford Bishop, David Scott and me together, she would say, "What are you Georgia boys doing? What are you up to?"

And when she was planning programs in her district, she would stop by to see members of the Georgia delegation and tell us she needed a box of peanuts. And we would all ante up and make those peanuts available to her.

It is so unreal. It is so unbelievable that we will not see her on the floor of this Chamber again. Life is short, too short. We are here today, and we're gone tomorrow, but her spirit and her memory will live on in all of us.

With the passing of Congresswoman McDonald, it seems the world is a little darker. It seems that a light has gone out. Maybe here in this Chamber and on this Earth a light has gone out. But in another part of the universe Juanita is shining brighter than ever before.

#### CHAIRWOMAN JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I had to come to the floor today in remembrance of a phenomenal woman, Juanita Millender-McDonald. My heart is pained and it is unbelievable that we will not see this great woman, at least not on this planet, again. She was a woman that anytime that you saw her, she stood with such dignity and grace. She was a woman who was honest. I can recall when I would go to her and ask her opinion on various issues. She wouldn't tell me what I wanted to hear. She would tell me what I needed to hear. She would tell me what was indeed right. Being the father of three daughters, I can't help but say, Thank you, Juanita. Thank you for being the pioneer that you were. Thank you for blazing a trail, a trail that's so wide for women, all women, like my three

young daughters, so that they can walk now on that path, so that they now can have opportunities that were denied others because you have fought the fight.

In the church that I come from, the question is, have you helped someone, and the song says, "If you've helped someone, then your living shall not be in vain."

In the life story of Juanita Millender-McDonald, she has indeed helped a whole lot of somebodies and she has made life better for a lot of children yet unborn. She has made history. And in the camera of history and in the camera of life of Juanita Millender-McDonald, it will be recorded that she was a soldier in this thing we call life, and she was a leader for all human beings but in particular to make sure that women, that their tomorrow is better than their yesterday or today.

Juanita, we will miss you, and we know that as you see the good Lord, He's saying, "Well done, Juanita. Job well done."

#### THE STATE OF INTELLIGENCE'S UNION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, it is 6 years after 9/11, and reform of the intelligence community continues to be a primary concern for all of us. At the swearing-in ceremony of Director Mike McConnell, President Bush outlined three main categories for improvement: the need to strengthen individual agencies, increase information sharing action and improve the quality of intelligence produced. I wish to discuss this morning what this means.

The intelligence community has established new hiring and employment reforms to strengthen the workforce. Under the direction of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), there is now a comprehensive intelligence community plan that focuses on hiring a more diverse workforce to address the critical need for variety in languages, backgrounds, and skills. He has also appointed a chief of equal employment opportunity and diversity, and has agreed to a set of wide-ranging recommendations that the diversity senior advisory panel made in their report: "Diversity: A National Security Imperative for the Intelligence Community."

The Director of National Intelligence is also establishing "joint duty" as a requirement for promotion to senior positions. This is imperative in transforming the culture to increase integration and a collaborative nature among agencies. It will also reduce "stovepipe" mentalities which hampered collection efforts pre-9/11. These are important reforms, Mr. Speaker, and good initiatives that have been undertaken to address the human resources challenges facing the intelligence community. I look forward to